

Brahmasamaj

Order of Service
in the
Brahmo Samaj

BL1263
.B813



21. 1949
32. 1949

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ORDER OF SERVICE

IN THE

BRAHMO SOMAJ

FOR THE

Congregation and Family.

[TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.]

SECOND EDITION.

CALCUTTA :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY K. P. NATH,
AT THE MANGALGANJ MISSION PRESS,
3, RAMANATH MAJUMDAR'S STREET.

1915.

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FORM OF DIVINE SERVICE IN THE BRAHMO SOMAJ.

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[*The service begins with a hymn.*]

INVOCATION.

[*By the Minister.*]

The great, holy and merciful spirit of God is around us, filling all this space, and our hearts within us. We have met here to worship, and adore Him. Let us with tranquil hearts, humble, and earnest minds, approach Him, and meditate on His glory. Let us sing His praise with gratitude and love, and offer Him the tribute of our united prayers. Let us realize His awful presence, behold Him face to face with the eye of faith, and ask deliverance from sin and sorrow. May the merciful God prepare our hearts for His holy service, and respond to our humble prayer.

[*Another hymn is here sung.*]

ADORATION.

[*Chanted together.*]

सत्यं ज्ञानमनन्तं ब्रह्म
आनन्दरूपममृतं यद्विभाति
शान्तं शिवमद्वैतं
शुद्धमपापविद्धं ।

[*Translation.*]

As the True, the Intelligent, the Infinite, and the Blissful He manifests Himself. He is the Peaceful and Merciful God. He is One without a second. He is Holy and Sinless.

[*By the Minister.*]

Truth :—Thou art the true and living God. Thou art the source and support of all things. The whole universe is in thee, and unto thy glory. From thee all life springs, every living object is preserved in thy power. Without thee who can move, or act, or live? Thine awful and living presence pervades all. Apart from thee all else is dead, and spiritless, vain and false. Thou, O God, art the life of our lives, thou alone art real and abiding.

Wisdom :—Thou art the Supreme Intelligence ; formless, and unseen, yet manifest in thy wisdom. All creation proclaims the greatness of thy designs, and the wonders of thy law. Before the ever-watching witness of thine omniscient eye, all things lie revealed to their depths, and the secrets of our hearts are fully known. Thou, O Lord, dost behold all our sins and sorrows. In the light of thy presence we can hide nothing. Thou art the all-seeing Witness, the omniscient Indweller of our hearts.

Infinity :—Thou art the Eternal, Infinite God. Space cannot bound thee, time cannot measure thy

beginning or end. The heights and the depths of thy nature who can fathom? This vast universe surrounds thy exalted throne, and the praise and adoration of all worlds rise before thee. Thou dost transcend all being, all speech, and all thought. Thou art great, glorious, and incomprehensible, all-pervading, and perfect.

Blissfulness :—Thou art the source of all joy and peace ; the heart rejoices, and is sweetened in thy presence. Thou givest gladness to the poor, and comfort to the bereaved. The sick and the weak receive much rest in thy thought ; and the dying receive their last hope from thee. In the very utterance of thy blessed name, O thou bright and beautiful God, there is joy and peace ineffable. We seek to behold thee, and bear thy Spirit within us, because thou art ever blessed, and the ever-living fountain of delight.

Mercy :—Thou art good and merciful. A father's affection and a mother's love are in thee—ininitely more than a father or a mother can feel, thou feelest for us. All earthly and spiritual good flows from thee ; with what tender care dost thou feed and tend all men ! Even those who acknowledge thee not, and offend thee every day, enjoy thy goodness. The sinful and the vile thou dost not desert. Thou are the loving and forgiving God, thou art the Father of infinite mercy.

Unity :—Thou art One without a second. Alone didst thou create, alone dost thou sustain, and govern all. Without thee there is no one else that can help, and lead, and save our souls. None can be compared to thee. None can stand as equal, or as second in thy presence. Uncounted beings and souls adore thee, and thou alone receivest their praise and worship. Thou art one King over all, one Lord, one Saviour, one help and hope in this life and in the next.

Holiness :—Thou art holy ; thy nature is immaculate, not a single sin can touch thee. Thou art the source and the standard of righteousness ; whatever thou willest is pure. In the hallowed glory of thy purity, the gloom of the sinful heart is dispelled, in thy very thought the mind becomes pure. O thou King of righteousness, thou judgest and dost punish the guilty ; the wicked are humbled in thy unflinching rule. Thou art the just and holy God, the Guide, and Saviour of the penitent soul.

We glorify thee, we adore thee, we praise thy name, and humbly resign ourselves unto thee. O God, thou art the Guardian of the faithful, the Friend of the poor, the Father of all families, and the Saviour of all sinners, —we humbly bow down to thee.

SILENT COMMUNION.

[*By the Minister.*]

Let us now for a few moments meditate, in the silence and secrecy of our hearts, on that awful Being to whom we have offered our adoration. As the Soul of our souls, as the Life of our lives, He dwells in this tabernacle of flesh, and will abide with us through all ages. Let us abstract our attention from all outward and sensible objects, draw our vision within ourselves, and there penetrating into the darkness and solitude of the inner world, view the depth of the Divine nature seated within the profoundest places of our reverence and faith. And thus may we be made worthy of His eternal communion.

[*Silent communion for some minutes.*]

UNITED PRAYER.

[*Chanted together standing.*]

Lead us O God ! from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. O thou Father of truth, reveal thyself before us. Thou art merciful, do thou protect us always in thy unbounded goodness.

शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः

Peace ! Peace ! Peace !

PRAYER FOR UNIVERSAL SALVATION.

[*By the Minister alone standing.*]

O great Lord of the universe ! We humbly stand before thy exalted throne, and pray for the well-being of

the whole world. As thou hast offered unto us thy blessed religion from which every day we acquire truth, joy, and righteousness, so do thou spread its shelter over all nations. In the heart of every man and woman, in every household, and in every land may thy holy temple be upreared, may thy light blaze forth, and thy greatness be glorified for ever. Do thou, O Saviour, deliver all mankind from every manner of error, superstition, impurity, and false religion, and diffuse everywhere the peace and truth of thy 'Fheism. Extend thy grace upon our dear and near ones, upon our households, and country ; upon friends, and foreigners ; upon those who do and do not favour us, and upon all the souls that dwell in this world, and in the next. O Lord, bind all men and women in the everlasting and holy bonds of true brotherhood ; teach them to live as one family ; and may thus thy kingdom of heavenly love and peace be established.

ब्रह्मरूपा हि केवलम् ।

God's grace only availeth !

[A hymn is here sung, followed by a recitation of texts from Hindu and other Scriptures. The Minister then delivers a sermon, and ends it with an appropriate prayer.]

[BENEDICTION.]

[By the Minister.]

May the merciful God, who, present now in spirit, hath heard and accepted our worship, bless us, and grant our prayer of this day ! May He for ever preserve

the worshippers of this Mandir in His holy religion, and send peace and purity into our hearts. Merciful God, give us the shelter of thy love. We all, brethren and sisters, with united hearts, in love and in faith, humbly bend ourselves before thy blessed feet.

[The service concludes here with a hymn.]

FAMILY SERVICE.

INVOCATION.

[Hymn.]

Our Heavenly Father presides over this household. The thrilling and august presence of His Spirit pervades our domestic sanctuary. Let us feel the reality of that presence, and lay our hearts in humility and love before Him. Let us as members of His household, surround His holy throne, glorify Him, worship Him, and offer unto Him our heart-felt prayer.

[Hymn.]

ADORATION.

सत्यं ज्ञानमनन्तम् etc.

O Thou living God, the whole universe standeth and moveth in the awful truth and power of thy being. Our bodies and our souls live in thee alone. As the life of our lives, thou art present without us, and within ; what sins and sorrows can we hide from thy all-searching gaze ? O thou Eternal Witness of all things, before the majesty of thy infinite nature and attributes all creation stands awe-struck ; nothing can measure thee, neither

speech, nor thought, neither space, nor time ! Yet sweet, and tranquil is thy presence, which soothes the troubled mind, and gives rest to the weary. Our hearts are radiant with joy to approach thee. Because thou art our living, and merciful Parent, and dost delight to bless us, and make us happy. Thou feedest even the ungrateful, and the wicked thou dost not desert ; who is like unto thee, O Lord ? In mercy, in goodness, in power thou standest Alone, and without a second. All worlds proclaim the glory of thy name, and thine only. We adore thy holiness, most righteous God, we tremble before the unapproachable sanctity of thy glorious spirit. O thou Saviour of sinners, the Friend of the poor, we crave thy protection, we depend upon thee, and bend low to the dust before thee.

MEDITATION.

Let us now in silence seek our God within our hearts. He dwelleth and shall ever abide there Alone and in silence. His spirit filleth our spirit. Let us gaze at Him with the suppliant's attitude, till He manifests Himself, and vouchsafes us His silent communion within the soul.

UNITED PRAYER.

[Chanted together.]

Lead us, O Lord, from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, and from death to immortality. God of Truth, manifest thyself before us, and protect us always in thy unbounded mercy.

[*Hymn.*]

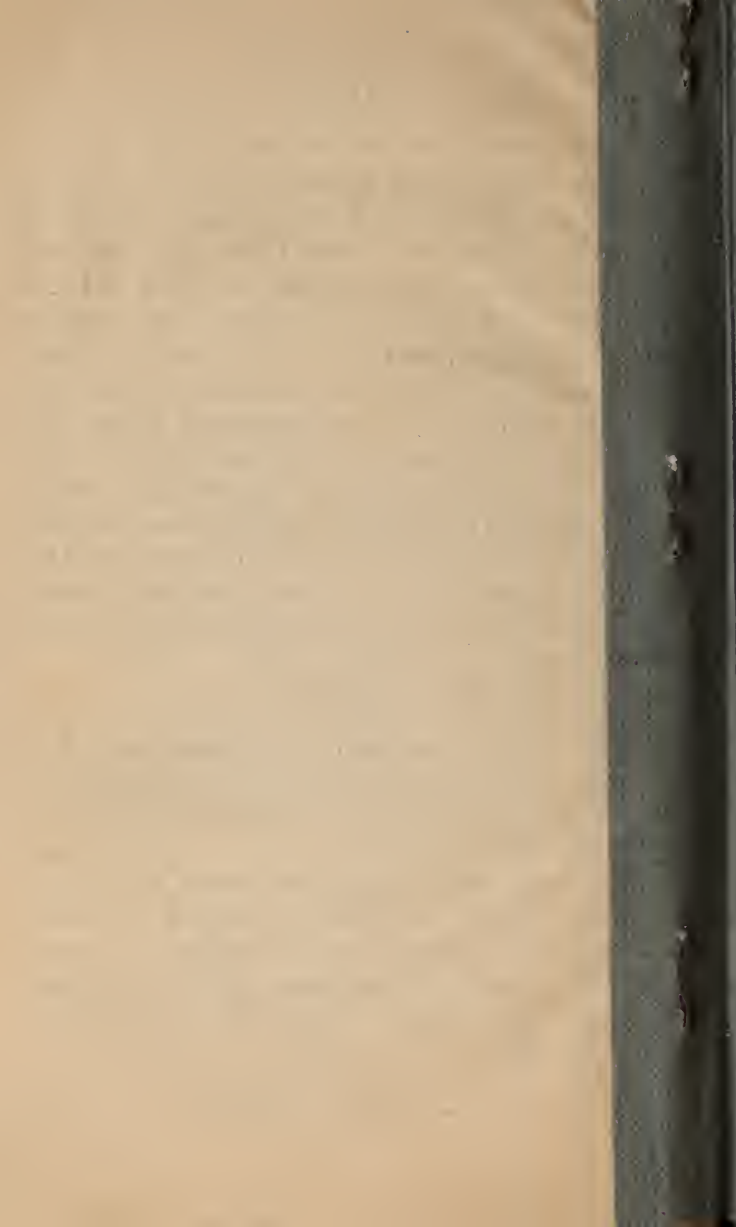
FAMILY PRAYER.

Our merciful Father, we assemble in family worship before thy sacred altar, and take thy great name in all humility. Enable us to behold thee, and to offer thee our love and gratitude, so that our hearts may be purified. O God, we are thy children, thy sons and daughters, thy servants all. Give unto us thy shelter, and make our family a holy and peaceful household. May we always love and honor thee as our Father, and regard and help each other according to the tenderness of our relations. Father, deliver us from anger, malice, selfishness, and love of the world, and teach us to devote our entire life to the obedience of thy holy will. May we as thy faithful children, find thee always in our midst, and enjoy the blessed tranquility of thy beloved household.

BENEDICTION.

The God of truth and mercy whose Spirit doth always and everywhere overshadow us, has been present at our worship. May He vouchsafe unto us His grace, and His blessing for the day.

Most holy and loving Father, accept the humble tribute of our praise and prayer. Enable us to receive thy blessing in the proper spirit, and suffer us in meek dependence and trust, to resign ourselves unto thee entirely. Good and holy God we humbly bow before thee. Amen.



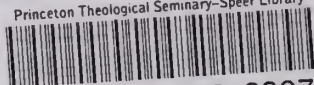
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